

Review:

**4:12 Paul intensifies his appeal but makes it very personal**

I beg of you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong;

**SUMMARY 4:12:**

1. Paul being a Jew and a Pharisee at that knew what it was like being a slave to the law.
2. Paul's objective here is to encourage them to leave it behind, to drop their legalism.
3. Paul did not take the matter as a personal attack on him or his teaching.
4. Instead he sees legalism as acting self-righteously before God.
5. Paul's exhortation comes out of his love for them.

**4:13-14 Some of the circumstances surrounding his first visit.**

but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time; and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself.

- Any test will be beneficial if we respond to it by seeking the will of God and applying it.
- That same test if we react negatively, oh woe is me, then the situation can quickly become a hindrance in our life.

Rebel against the Word and your rebelling against God therefore the wide ranging impact of that rebelling in one's life.

**4:15 Asks a pointed question to help them assess the change of relationship.**

Where then is that sense of blessing you had?

They were so appreciative of Paul, their response so positive to him and his ministry at that time to the point they were said to be willing even to sacrifice their own eyes for him.

What Paul is saying is that you Galatians demonstrated great respect and esteem for me, have you wondered what happened?

**4:16 Their present mental attitude.**

So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?

What's the progression? Paul has gone from a place of esteem to being an enemy!

The real test of our love of the truth is this; What is our response to truth when it clearly points out a wrong attitude or belief or wrong conduct?

**Summary 4:16**

1. Paul's first visit to these Galatians left them in a state of spiritual prosperity as they began to realize their new position in Christ.
2. During that time they demonstrated a strong willingness to do what ever was necessary to benefit Paul.
3. Verses 15 and 16 explain the reason for the strain in the relationship between Paul and the Galatian saints—Paul persisted in pursuing the Galatians with the truth, while the Galatians foolishly followed the Judaizers who denied the truth.
4. Paul would later write about the importance of "speaking the truth in love." Eph 4:15
5. True friendship is based on truth.
6. Need to recognize that legalists and idolaters become enemies of the cross of Christ. Php 3:18-21
7. Those who befriend the world become enemies of God. Jas. 4:4
8. God's grace flowing from His love provided the way out for us from being His enemy. Rom. 5:10
9. Why would we as believers ever want to move back into an adversarial relationship with Him via legalism and idolatry, now that we are His adopted children?
10. Paul wants the Galatians to come to grips with the reality of the inconsistencies, between what he taught and what the Judaizers taught and to realize where they are headed.